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CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. During the period from 17 to 28 September 1994, two reports were submitted pursuant to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 47/31 of 25 November 1992.

II. REPORTS RECEIVED FROM STATES PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 8 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/31

A. Analytical summary of the reports

2. The reports contained in the present addendum concern attacks on diplomatic and consular premises. Greece reports on material damage to its consular premises resulting from an explosive device, and Iraq reports on thefts at one of its embassies.

B. Text of the reports

1. Note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General 1/

[Original: English]

[19 September 1994]

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations ..., in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 47/31 and paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 42/154 of 7 December 1987, has the honour to communicate the following:

> On 5 September 1994, an explosion of limited range was produced by a device contained in a package, of unknown origin, sent to the Consulate General of Greece in Barcelona. Only minor material damage resulted from the explosion, because the personnel of the Consulate had evacuated the premises following a warning note contained in the package. No organization has taken responsibility for this act.
>
> The Spanish Police authorities are conducting an investigation of the incident but have not yet located the culprits.

2. Note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General 2/

[Original: Arabic]

[20 September 1994]

The Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations ..., with reference to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 42/154, has the honour to communicate the following:

Criminals carried out a burglary at the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Brussels on the evening of 12 August 1993. The following items were stolen:

1. The Embassy's public and private records;

2. Seals for political mail;

3. An Embassy Mercedes car, which was found a few days later by the Belgian police;

4. Various amounts of cash from the safe, including a sum of 6,405,502 Belgian francs.

The incident occurred because the Belgians failed to provide the embassy building with adequate protection and security so that the criminals were emboldened to break in and perpetrate the crime. The fact that they have not yet been traced reflects negligence on the part of the Belgian Government in the performance of its obligations under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, especially since it did not cooperate at all with the Embassy of Iraq in Brussels in investigating the circumstances of the crime. Moreover, it even refused to grant a temporary entry visa to an Iraqi diplomat who wished to join the Embassy for the purpose of conducting an inquiry into the crime and coordinating with the competent Belgian authorities. No reason was given for the refusal.

In view of the foregoing, the Belgian Government is responsible under international law for the damage resulting from the crime, and Iraq intends to present it with an official note claiming compensation.

The Government of Iraq requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to circulate this information to all the Member States in accordance with paragraph 10 (a) of General Assembly resolution 42/154 and to include it in the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 12 of resolution 42/154.

Notes

1/ The note verbale is being transmitted to the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations and circulated to all States under cover of a note verbale from the Secretary-General.

2/ The note verbale is being transmitted to the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations and circulated to all States under cover of a note verbale from the Secretary-General.